



# ANISHINABEK NATION

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## COVID-19 Update – May 1, 2020

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### A message from Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare:

*“It’s the start of May and I can tell you that I’ve never seen or heard of a pandemic like this before. Scientists still don’t know everything about this novel coronavirus. Different symptoms, like blisters and rashes on toes found mostly on youth are now common. We need to stay home and save lives. I can’t say this enough. We are starting to see more of our First Nation citizens test positive for COVID-19. Stay Strong. Continue to practice physical distancing and keep your hands clean.”*

### Indigenous

- Anishinabek News Articles
  - [Book review: Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country](#)
  - [Aamjiwnaang First Nation helps at-home learners take in Anishinaabe teachings](#)
- As of April 30, Indigenous Services Canada has reported 131 confirmed positive COVID-19 tests on First Nations reserves, 32 of which are in Ontario.
- Minister Miller said yesterday that his department is happy with the results of strict measures taken by remote Indigenous communities to stop the spread of COVID-19. Miller reported that \$690 million in funding has gone directly to the Indigenous health response to the virus so far.
- The top doctor at the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) has said that it is still too early to accurately predict the full impact the novel coronavirus will have on First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities.
- 1,261 tests for COVID-19 have been administered at nursing stations and treatment centres on reserves since April 1.
- The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) is calling for a boycott of Dryden, Ont., after the mayor and council voted overwhelmingly not to ask for Lynn Beyak to resign her position in Canada’s senate. This comes after the senator was suspended from her duties last year and kicked out of the Conservative caucus for not removing racist letters from her website stating that some residential school survivors had positive experiences.

### Provincial

- Premier Ford announced today that a small list of businesses will be allowed to reopen as of Monday, May 4. The list includes:
  - Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only;
  - Lawn care and landscaping;
  - Additional essential construction projects that include:
    - Shipping and logistics;
    - Broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;



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- Any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;
  - Municipal projects;
  - Colleges and universities;
  - Child care centres;
  - Schools; and
  - Site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development;
  - Automatic and self-serve car washes;
  - Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
  - Golf courses may prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
  - Marinas may also begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.
- Minister Elliott confirmed today that the Ministry of Health is looking at app options for contact tracing purposes.
  - Premier Ford praised the Ontario health team for finally reaching Wednesday's goal of administering 14,000 COVID-19 tests per day today.
  - 39 Ontarians died of COVID-19 yesterday, and 421 new cases were confirmed. This brings the case count in Ontario to 10,825, with a total death toll of 1,121.
  - A Toronto-based law firm has filed an application for a \$50 million class-action lawsuit on behalf of two families against long-term care operator Revera Inc. over the company's response to the coronavirus pandemic.
  - Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson says he's ordered the end to a ban on family members visiting residents through windows. This news comes after Premier Ford condemned the ban in his daily press conference yesterday afternoon

## **Federal**

- A parliamentary committee has voted to employ a rarely used power to summon key World Health Organization adviser Bruce Aylward after the global body declined to allow him to testify before MPs on how it responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the terms of the motion, the summons will be issued once the committee learns that Dr. Aylward, a Canadian working out of Geneva for the WHO, is back on Canadian soil.
- Prime Minister Trudeau's press conference today focused primarily on announcing a national ban on over 1,500 military grade assault weapons in response to last month's massacre in Nova Scotia.

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